

1-30-2003

Arbiter, January 30

Students of Boise State University

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Want a
Scholarship
& a job next year?
see page 5

Bronco gymnasts prepare to take
on Cal in first home meet
Page 7

The Arbiter

arbiteronline.com

Vol. 15 Issue 38

Thursday, January 30, 2003

Boise State University

Professor conducts innovative Alzheimer's research

Findings to be
published in
scientific journal

By Casey Wyatt
The Arbiter

For years, researchers studying Alzheimer's disease have tried to understand how brain cells — called neurons — mysteriously degenerate in some people as they age.

Dr. Troy Rohn's work at Boise State recently shed light on the mechanics of Alzheimer's. Rohn said he has evidence that brain cells are using their own built-in self-destruction mechanism to turn on themselves.

"We're confident we've figured out how the neurons die," he said.

If the scientific community accepts his findings, which he will send out this week, Rohn, his team and Boise State would see a boon in research funding and recognition.

Rohn is going out of his

way to strengthen his case. In a rare collaboration, researchers from Boise State, the University of California at Irvine and Northwestern University will be sending their papers collectively this week to the one of America's top scientific journals, the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

"They've found the same thing using different methods," Rohn said. "If one of our papers gets rejected, the other group will withdraw theirs as well."

Those papers could point to apoptosis, usually a normal process of life. Apoptosis acts to get rid of excess or damaged cells. For example, if it does not function correctly in

Rohn's theories have come about as he has searched for the elusive link between apoptosis and two structures called plaques and tangles, which help doctors identify Alzheimer's after death.

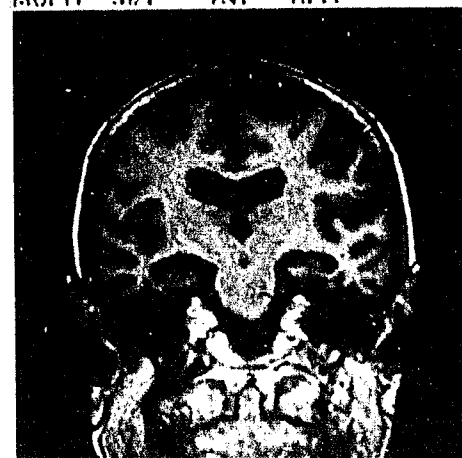
fetal development, a baby may be born with webbed hands and feet.

But if apoptosis is inadvertently turned on in large numbers of neurons, those cells will self-destruct. The affected areas, along with the associated memory and thinking, are lost forever because brain tissue cannot regenerate.

Rohn's theories have come about as he has searched for the elusive link between apoptosis and two structures called plaques and tangles, which help doctors identify Alzheimer's after death. Plaques, which are circular deposits of special proteins, occur in great numbers in the area of the brain that handles memo-

ry. For years, their significance has been a mystery. Also, neurofibrillary tangles, or NFT's, appear. NFT's are twisted knots of tau, a special protein that acts as the neuron's scaffolding. When the tau is tangled in the cell, the neuron loses its shape.

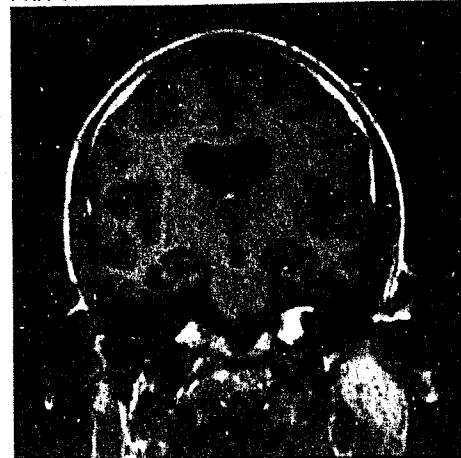
MULTI SIZE AVE HELP



HRIT: 1000 CONT: 200

Brain with A.D

MULTI SIZE SAVE HELP



HRIT: 1000 CONT: 200

Normally Aged Brain

MRI courtesy of BSU Dept. of Biology

disrupted, and brain cells can die.

Although the presence of these aid in postmortem diagnoses, scientists do not understand the relationship between them — that's why Rohn is so excited. He said his team has found evidence

that plaques and NFT's are linked to apoptosis.

His results could lead to the development of new drugs aimed at blocking apoptosis in the Alzheimer's diseased brain. Whether that process can be inhibited remains an exciting possibility for everyone involved.

Students raise funds for programming

By Jessica Adams
The Arbiter

The Student Programs Board tentatively scheduled Ralph Nader, the 2000 Green Party U.S. presidential candidate, to speak on "The Corporation of America" at Boise State University.

But there is one problem: SPB doesn't have the funds necessary to bring Nader to campus.

Ryan McDaniel, SPB lectures chairperson, initially asked ASBSU to sponsor the event. Upon rejection, McDaniel decided to seek sponsorship from members of the community.

McDaniel said he has risen over half the financial support necessary to bring Nader to campus, yet SPB must make up the difference of \$4,500.

Originally, Nader's presentation would have cost close to \$20,000, but McDaniel bargained with Nader's agent to bring the speaker to Boise State for \$10,750.

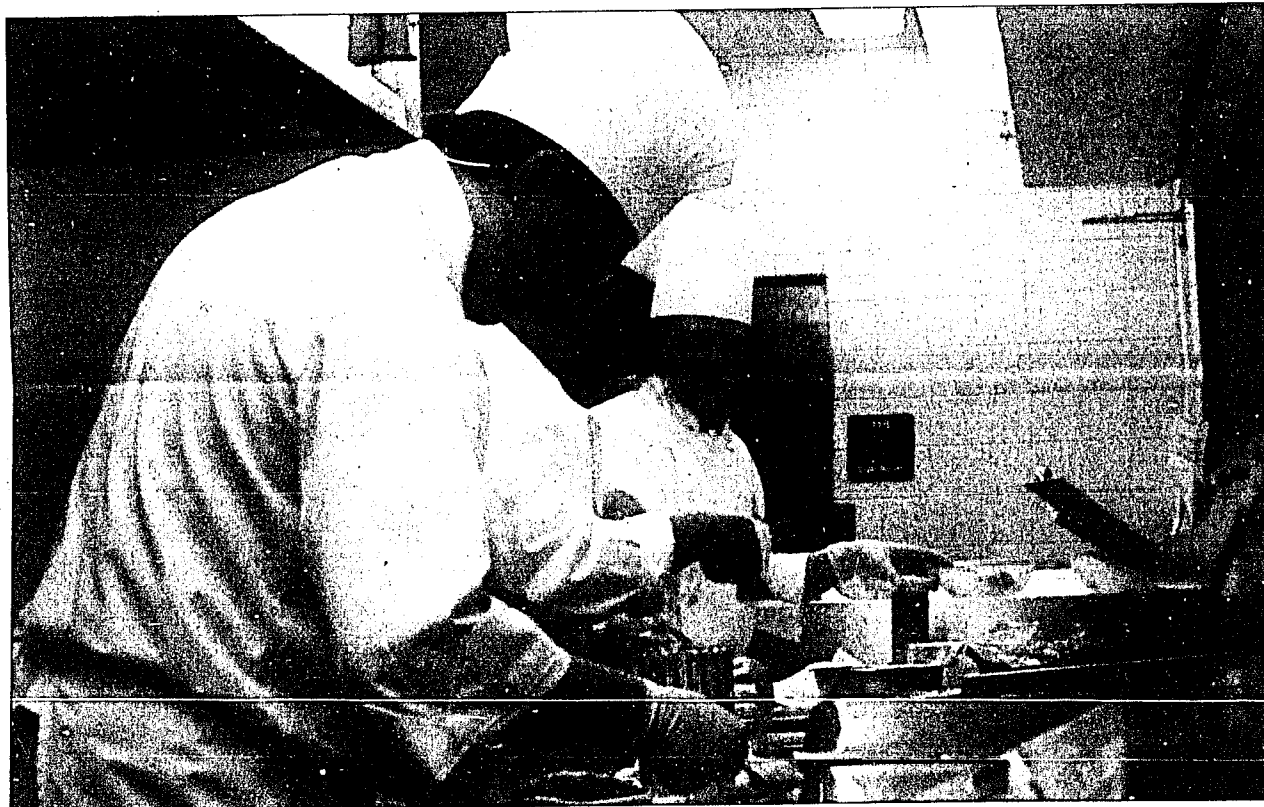
The event is scheduled to take place on April 7 in the Pavilion. Nader's lecture intends to educate students and the general public on American corporate values, including corporate greed and the environmental effects of corporate activities in the next 20 years.

The total cost of the program would amount to \$19,550. According to McDaniel, ASBSU denied their sponsorship due to a lack of available funds.

"When I saw ASB had spent \$9,000 on billboards, I thought 'that's great, that's what our president should be doing—for the greater good of our university,'" McDaniel said.

"Maybe I'll have some dough next year. Right now

See Students page 3



Chef Ebed (center) instructs students during a lunch rush.

Photos by Kelly Day, The Arbiter

LOCAL CHEF TEACHES STUDENTS MEDITERRANEAN



Front: Sambosik. Back: Sauteed prawns in a spicy tomato sauce.

Chef Ibrahim Ebed, who has owned and operated Aladdin Egyptian Cuisine on Broadway for 10 years, is currently the guest chef at Culinary Arts until Friday, February 7.

Ebed, who has also owned restaurants in Germany and Saudi Arabia, was once a chef at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.

Not only is Ebed teaching students about working with Mediterranean ingredients, he also emphasizes a safe work environment.

"Safety is the most important thing student chefs must learn. Knowing how to use a knife properly will help you become more confident in trying to create new dishes."

Ebed has fused his style of cuisine with the current four-week Culinary Arts menu, including Sambosik (a puffed pastry stuffed with curried chicken) and Kefta Mishwe (a beef dish served with Mediterranean rice).

Greens plan peace rally at Statehouse

By Jason Kauffman
The Arbiter

Boise State's Campus Greens, although seemingly small in number, continue to take an active role on campus as well as in the community.

Current issues receiving the attention of the Campus Greens include an upcoming peace rally and plans to increase the use of native plants in landscaping projects across campus.

According to Casey O'Leary, a Campus Greens member, the organization advocates for these and other issues based upon Idaho Greens Ten Key Values.

"These values of the Green party include non-violence, ecological wisdom, social justice and respect for diversity," she said.

In the past, the Campus Greens have focused on projects such as campaigning for local Idaho Green Party candidates and sponsoring campus-based voter registration.

In light of the possibility of an impending war with Iraq, Campus Greens have become increasingly active in the National Youth and Student Peace Coalition.

The coalition, whose campus-wide affiliates include the Idaho Progressive Student Alliance and the College Democrats, is planning a peace rally on Wednesday, March 5 at 3:30 p.m. at the Statehouse.

According to O'Leary, this rally will give a voice to people who feel they are voiceless, such as high school students.

"I think high school students in particular are feeling pretty powerless. They organized this to give some support to the idea of peace," O'Leary said.

See Greens page 3

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FRIDAY



Showers

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SUNDAY



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'Abstinence only' policies leave students uninformed

By Linda Cook
The Arbiter

In fiscal year 2003, the federal government expects to spend \$135 million on sex education to promote "abstinence only." Fifty states applied for federal funding for abstinence promotion programs this year.

Federal policy states that the message of abstinence should not be diluted and that teaching about contraceptives will send a mixed message to young people.

However, some opponents say there is lack of evidence that teaching abstinence actually promotes abstinence.

According to Ellie Merrick, public affairs director of Planned Parenthood of Idaho, the organization supports absti-

nence-based sex education, which differs from abstinence-only sex education in that it teaches teenage abstinence and also provides information to teens about protecting themselves against pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases.

"If they're not getting medically accurate, comprehensive sex education, they're uninformed," Merrick said.

Merrick said that when teenagers come to Planned Parenthood, they need a lot of education.

"When they [teenagers] come to us there are all sorts of myths they've adopted. They don't consider oral sex or anal sex to be sex ... That myth has just exploded among teenagers ... They don't understand they're just as susceptible to

STIs [sexually transmitted infections] with oral and anal sex," Merrick said.

In abstinence-only programs, the educators are not allowed to teach contraceptives except to point out their failure rates.

According to a study conducted by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, over 80 percent of Americans say they support schools teaching children abstinence while also giving them information about contraceptives.

The years between 1990 and 1996 saw a 17 percent decline in teenage pregnancy rates. The Alan Guttmacher Institute estimates that 75 percent of the decline was due to teen's increased knowledge of and access to contraception, and 25 percent owing to increased teen

abstinence.

Studies published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* have found that comprehensive sex education is more effective than abstinence-only education.

U.S. teenagers continue to contract STD's at a higher rate than their peers in other developed nations. The Guttmacher Institute believes that this is due to a far lower rate of condom usage.

During the 2002 legislative session, Idaho decision-makers passed a non-binding resolution that sex education in Idaho public schools should promote "moral development" through "character based" programs.

The legislators cited their concerns about the effects of teen pregnancy and STD rates

among teenagers as the reason for resolution. The legislators did not define what either term meant but most observers took it as a show of support for abstinence-only programs.

Many school districts already had policies in place. Joe Gordon, Health Supervisor for the Boise School District, says the district adopted its own policy in the '90's.

The school board policy states that the "curriculum shall be based on the philosophy of sexual abstinence until marriage," Gordon said.

"We can only talk about those things [contraceptives] if the students ask a direct question ... It cannot be teacher initiated."

Bachelor's degree opens doors to bigger paychecks

By John Gallagher
Knight Ridder Newspapers

John Bommarito used to think he didn't need a college degree to move up in his field. A music industry entrepreneur, Bommarito, a 35-year-old Livonia, Mich., resident, has been a music buyer, a store manager and a disc jockey at clubs and small radio stations.

But the music turned sour when he tried to find a higher management job without a bachelor's degree.

"I figured, well, I've got 15 years of solid work history, I've been a head buyer, I've run my own company, I should be able to find a job," he said.

But he searched frustratingly for six months, getting no offers except for jobs in record stores as a glorified stock clerk.

Instead of raging against the system, he realized that going back to school for a degree "was the only thing I could do."

Nothing comes closer as a means to increase lifetime earnings than getting more education. Economists agree that the case for more education is overwhelming.

College graduates older than 25 earn more than twice as much each week as high school drop-outs - \$896 vs. \$360, nearly twice as much as those who stopped with a high school diploma, \$506 a week, and comfortably more than those with some college but no degree, \$598 a week, all according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Moreover, college graduates have experienced growth in inflation-adjusted earnings since 1979. In contrast, high school dropouts have seen their real earnings decline.

Michael Connors, a building rehabilitation specialist with Macomb County, Mich., government, will finish his bachelor's degree in business communication within the year. He might

stay with the county or look elsewhere. But, either way, he expects his degree to pay off.

"Financially, it'll open up an opportunity to obtain a better job with better pay," said Connors, 27, of St. Clair Shores, Mich.

"It's a tool that enables you to open other doors."

And pay isn't all of it, either. Want greater job stability? High school dropouts are suffering nearly 9 percent unemployment right now; for college graduates, the figure is just slightly over 3 percent.

Alison Wolf, a British writer and author of a new book "Does Education Matter?" puts it neatly: "Pick a 'highly educated and a poorly educated person at random and you can almost guarantee that the first will be earning more than the second."

She added, "The more educated you are, the more likely you are to enjoy stable, long-term employment."

Bommarito attends classes at University of Michigan-Dearborn, studying toward a business degree.

He jokes about standing out as "the old guy with the little balding patch and the gray hair and the beard." But he also realizes that his degree will be able to get him what he wants.

"Earnings is somewhat important, but more important to me is going to a company that I'm going to enjoy working for," he said, "coming home from work and telling my wife, 'I had a good day today.' I'd like to be able to say that once."

So bountiful are the lifetime benefits of more education that they're worth going to some trouble to get.

But it's not easy. Keep in mind that midcareer workers who go back to school often need to juggle children and classwork, as well as come up with tuition and fees that could run into tens of thousands of dollars.



(January 28) Jasmine Patel performs an acupuncture procedure on Barbara Hubbard at the Bastyr Center in Wallingford, Wash.

Campus Shorts

West

Modern healers embracing ancient medicine

SEATTLE—Students have long studied for doctoral degrees in philosophy and medicine - but never before for a doctorate in acupuncture.

No recognized learning institution in the United States has ever offered such a course. But this year, Bastyr University in Kenmore, Wash., plans to offer a DAOM - a Doctorate in Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine. An alternative college in Portland, Ore., has similar plans.

The new degree will give more credibility to a treatment that is increasingly accepted and embraced as a companion to conventional medicine, said Terry Courtney, the program chairman. It also will open research opportunities and the chance for students to specialize within their field.

The program is expected to get accreditation from a national board that oversees Oriental-medicine education. It would not be considered a medical degree or give graduates the same privileges as medical doctors, such as the ability to prescribe drugs. It would be up to each state to decide whether to allow graduates to put "Dr." before their names.

Jasmine Patel, 27, of

Kenmore plans to apply for the new course. She is completing a residency at Bastyr's acupuncture and herbal clinic in Wallingford, Wash.

Patel said the new degree will give her more training and the ability to explore the academic and teaching aspects of her field. She said she prefers the natural approach of acupuncture and herbal medicine to what she sees as traditional medicine's focus on symptoms.

"It's a more holistic-based therapy and more healing," she said.

"It gets to the root of the problem."

East

Parents rush to sign up for prepaid tuition

MIAMI—As word spreads that Florida's wildly popular prepaid college tuition program could be in jeopardy, record numbers of families are rushing to beat the Jan. 31 registration deadline.

The Florida Prepaid College Plan allows parents or anyone else to lock in today's tuition rates and pay them over time for any child who is a Florida resident. The plan is the most popular of its kind in the nation by far. Its 800,000 participants outnumber the combined enrollment of similar programs in all other states.

"It was the best thing I ever did in my life," said Raquel Brookins of Miami, who now has two children in college on the prepaid program.

But this may be the last opportunity for families such as the Brookinses to buy that sense of security.

Under a proposed budget Gov. Jeb Bush unveiled last week, each of the 11 public universities would be able to set its own tuition.

The chairman of Florida Prepaid's board of directors says the unpredictability created by the varying tuition rates would destroy the 15-year-old program.

"It tears us up to think such a successful program will come to an end," said Stanley Tate of Miami, who has headed Florida Prepaid since its inception in 1988.

The program has been able to thrive because past tuition increases were fairly consistent. And the Legislature made across-the-board increases that affected all public colleges and universities.

But if each school sets prices independently, Tate said it would be impossible to predict what a child today would need to pay in 10 or 15 years. That, in turn, would make a contract's fair price hard to set, he said.

News shorts are compiled by Brandon Fiala from KRT and U-Wire news services.

News Bucket

BSU gets \$1 million for engineering

Earlier this week, Boise State was named one of nine public colleges and universities in nine western states to receive a grant through the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation's "Engineering Schools of the West Initiative."

Boise State was awarded \$1,050,000 over four years for a project titled "Overcoming Roadblocks to Introductory Engineering Courses."

The nine grants, ranging from \$750,000 to \$1.1 million, will support programs to increase retention and recruitment efforts and improve student learning through better undergraduate teaching.

University selects new dean for extended studies

Michael Stockstill has accepted the position of dean of Extended Studies at Boise State University. His appointment is contingent upon approval by the State Board of Education.

Extended Studies offers regular academic courses and special programs such as workshops, certificates and teacher in-service programs, international programs, non-credit courses, a concurrent enrollment program for high school students and a special program for adults age 50 and over.

Stockstill will succeed the current dean of extended studies, Joyce Harvey-Morgan, who is retiring in January. Stockstill expects to begin work at Boise State later in the spring semester.

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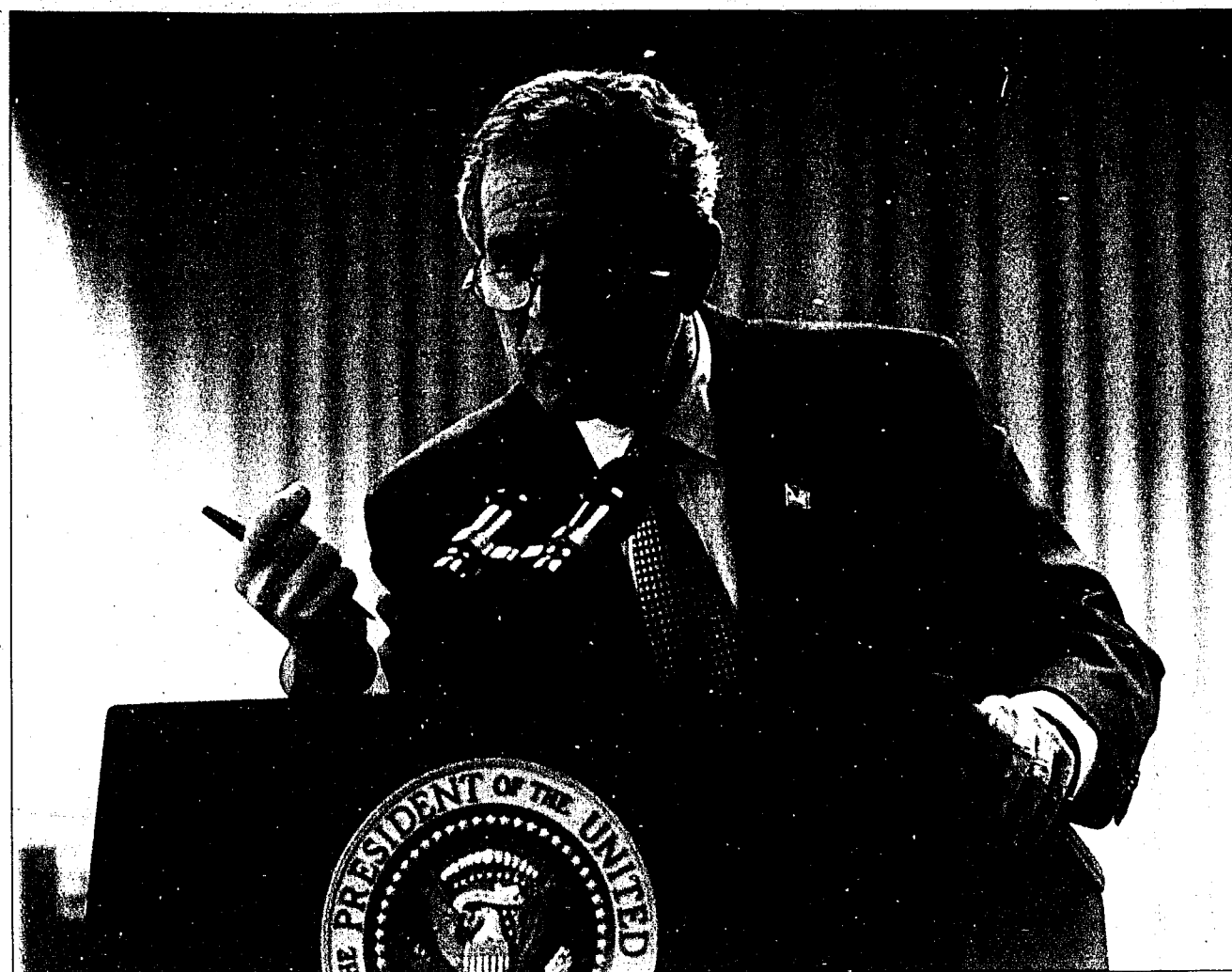
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FRIDAY FEBRUARY 21ST



President George W. Bush

Photo courtesy of KRT

Bush starts his countdown to war

By Ron Hutcheson

Knight Ridder Newspapers —

WASHINGTON — President Bush will start what his aides say is the countdown to war with Iraq this week by confronting nations around the world with a stark choice between military action or more diplomacy.

The rapid-fire developments are to begin on Monday, when U.N. weapons inspectors report on their efforts to find and destroy Iraq's hidden weapons. Bush will make his case for aggressive action the next day in the nationally televised State of the Union speech and could order many more troops into the Gulf to back up U.S. resolve.

The issue bounces back to the United Nations on Wednesday, when the 15-member Security Council goes behind closed doors to debate the next move.

The looming diplomatic showdown has unleashed pent-up resentments toward the United States, with potentially far-reaching consequences. Relations between the United States and key European allies are in a downward spiral, and so far the administration has been unable to make Iraq's behavior, not America's, the issue.

In some foreign capitals, the crisis in Iraq is viewed as a classic case of American arrogance. Suspicions about Bush's motives, anger over his seeming disregard for European opinion and longstanding grievances fueled by America's military superiority, economic clout and unrivaled status as the dominant world power are finding voice in the Iraq debate.

In Davos, Switzerland,

business and political leaders at the World Economic Forum have used the gathering to vent their frustration with U.S. foreign policy, especially on Iraq. Representatives from the

Arab League and the European Union urged Bush to stay within the framework of the United Nations and international law.

On Sunday, Secretary of State Colin Powell told the forum that Bush is in "no great rush" to launch an attack on Iraq, but simultaneously warned: "The United States believes that time is running out."

Jordanian King Abdullah, also in Davos, said he believed war with Iraq was a virtual inevitability.

Even foreign leaders who agree that Saddam Hussein is a menace — and many do — say they don't see justification for war now. At the United Nations, France, Germany, China and Russia have apparently teamed up in an effort to block any U.S. war plans. Great Britain is standing with the United States, nervously.

No matter what happens at the United Nations, and the debate could drag on for days or even weeks, Bush says he will not back down.

Inside the White House, presidential advisers shrug off the increasingly vocal opposition from allies as well as poll results in this country showing widespread opposition to unilateral military action. Although as many as two-thirds of Americans say they support the use of force against Iraq, support turns to opposition if the United States acts alone or in defiance of the United Nations.

Administration officials insist that Bush would have plenty of backers, both at home and abroad, if he decided to go to war and gave a strong rationale for action. He will not attempt to do that in Tuesday's speech, but will explain why he is nearing that point, aides said.

White House aides

acknowledge he has not presented a full case for war.

"The president will make that case at the appropriate time, in the appropriate way," Karl Rove, Bush's chief political adviser, told reporters.

One senior administration official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the week's developments will mark "the last phase" of the run-up to war. Still unclear is how long Bush is prepared to wait.

On NBC's "Meet the Press," White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card said Bush "is not anxious to go to war. He would like to see Saddam Hussein come clean, to disarm. He'd like to see him bring those weapons to a parking lot and have them destroyed."

But few people expect that to happen.



Saddam Hussein

Even foreign leaders who agree that Saddam Hussein is a menace, and many do, say they don't see justification for war now.

Students from page 1

I'm resorting to fundraising," ASBSU President Chris Mathias said the executive branch chose not to fund SPB's program due to ASBSU's tight budget.

"It came down to the fact that we just don't have the money to support them right now," Mathias said.

"SPB is always coming to us for money, and we don't have it at this time. The billboards were more important."

ASBSU executives turned down a funding request from A Joint God Experience for sponsorship of their "Power of Porn" presentation.

Mathias said he doesn't think it would be in the interest of students for ASBSU to sponsor such demographically narrowed programming.

In the meantime, both SPB and A Joint God Experience are looking for alternative sources for funding.

Both organizations put up banners this week in attempt to draw attention from the student body. A Joint God Experience posted their banners in several locations across campus. The banners invite students to voice their feelings about pornography.

McDaniel asked students to show their support for his proposal by signing a petition. As of Tuesday afternoon, McDaniel had collected over 400 signatures.

Last Tuesday, McDaniel brought his proposal before the ASBSU Senate in an effort to muster support. The senate did not make a decision regarding McDaniel's intended program.

According to Jim Sherman, ASBSU senator-at-large, it is possible for the legislative branch to introduce a bill to back SPB's proposal to bring Nader, however, no decision has been made yet.

Greens from page 1

Boise High student Ben Groves, a high school Idaho Green party activist, said the reason high school students are organizing such an event is to give a forum to those without active decision-making power.

"Because we can't vote this is the best way to make our opinions known," Groves said.

"We care, and we have a voice, and we will express it."

Plans for this event include meeting on the BSU Quad at 2:30 p.m. and marching from there to the Statehouse steps.

Organizers hope to present speakers ranging from local high school students to the brother of a man that died in the Sept. 11 attacks. They will speak out about their concerns with current war preparations.

Campus Greens' plan to increase the use and visibility

of native plants in landscaping on the BSU campus could produce significant results.

With the support of Boise State Landscape Services already secured, such plantings could begin as early as this coming spring.

According to O'Leary, the benefits of planting species native to the region include a reduced dependency on fossil fuels, water and other resources for general upkeep.

"Native landscaping also makes sense because of recent budget cuts. It doesn't require as much labor for upkeep," O'Leary said.

O'Leary said the use of native plants in campus landscaping will give BSU students pride in both the place and climate they live in.

"This will be positive, it's something that directly involves campus, and it's sustainable," O'Leary said.

"The whole point of the Greens is sustainability."

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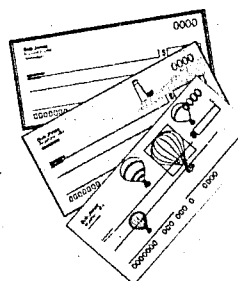
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Real education in the real world

By Jared Kenning
The Arbiter

You know the scene. In fact, you live it over and over in the classroom: The unceremonious death of Truth.

Relativism has become the cornerstone of higher education's philosophy, while the belief in Absolute Truth has been left in the dust of post-modernity, and replaced by the exaltation of "your and my truths."

And so it must be, I suppose, if we are to truly believe the new creeds of "diversity" and "tolerance" pushed on us in the present mood on campus. But we ought to stop and ask if the very foundation of our "real education" isn't faulty, if relativism in the postmodern world isn't an intellectual dead end.

A place to start the inquiry

might be at the scene itself. Imagine. It's the first day of your history class and the professor proclaims that "there is no such thing as Truth in history, only truths;" this will be the basis for all class discussion.

You then walk to buy your books for a literature class (American Realism, say) and find that most of the authors are female; Twain isn't even on the list.

Later, in another class, you are "discussing" Plato and the professor says Plato's philosophy is "exclusive, rather than inclusive," and then supplely moves on to point out the "misogyny" in the *Republic*.

And then the semester progresses, and then such remarks are punctuated with frequent "uh-huh's" and "yea's" from fellow classmates. You wonder if you

aren't mistakenly at a Pentecostal Church. But no, this is the "real world."

You would do good to wonder whether relativism is even a valid belief, for some of the implications of such a view attempt to deconstruct values and beliefs that many of us justifiably hold.

For example, the death of Truth ultimately means the death of God or an Absolute Being - God is replaced by the many gods of our "individual truths."

Also, right and wrong die a common death. No one can really claim to be right, if right and wrong are merely a matter of perspective. And if right and wrong are out, then who could reasonably believe in morality as an obligation? Wouldn't morality depend on each individual's truth for him/herself,

and at best, cohere to social constructions?

And we find ourselves at Boise State, floating in the ideals of tolerance and diversity, believing the motto: can't we all just get along?

Thus we get to the end of debate and argument,

eclipsed by the rise of the rant (because debate necessitates the belief of a real right and wrong). And we find ourselves at Boise State, floating in the ideals of tolerance and diversity, believing the motto: *can't we all just get along?* Otherwise known as: "let's celebrate our differences in an atmosphere of tolerance."

But here we run into a problem; we run into Truth.

For we cannot tolerate everything, all ideas are not equal. Certain actions are bad, and unity is stronger than difference. We are then forced to agree - or disagree - on what should or shouldn't be tolerated. But this agreement isn't based on "individual truths" coming together for the sake of expediency, but rather on the degree in which the individuals know Truth.

The fact that we disagree

just shows we don't know Truth in its entirety. I am not claiming to know all Truth, just that it exists, and is a much more solid foundation for higher education than relativism.

Perhaps you disagree and still find relativism more liberating and up to the mood of our times. But remember these things: The history professor *does* believe in one Absolute Truth, that there is no Absolute Truth; perhaps the reality of the Realism class is that the professor is acting upon his/her anger at past injustices suffered by women; and by definition all philosophies are exclusive, even if it simply means excluding certain philosophies because they are "exclusive."

Kempthorne's office guilty of irresponsibility

Guest Opinion

By Jerel Thomas
Student



This year's legislative session started out with a bang with Gov. Dirk Kempthorne proposing a

tax hike on cigarettes and a 1.5 percent increase in the sales tax.

According to Kempthorne, these tax increases will stabilize the \$200 million budget shortfall facing the state without making cuts in education.

He went on to say that these tax increases amount to a responsible fiscal policy that will keep the state financially solvent. This proposal of tax increases without any cuts to education would seem normal if spoken by a representative of the left, but it is quite disturbing coming from the supposed leader of the Idaho Republican Party.

Kempthorne spoke of great financial discipline during the last four years of his administration. This is laughable considering the \$200 million shortfall in the current budget. Kempthorne blames a decrease in tax collections for the shortfall.

However, the \$200 million deficit is a direct result of irresponsible management by both the legislature and the governor's office. In

order to understand this, one must first understand how government budgets work.

The government uses a system called baseline budgeting. This system basically takes the amount of money given to a department and factors in an increase. The amount of the increase is calculated by estimating the amount of tax collections the government will receive during the next fiscal year.

When the government talks about budget cuts, they are talking about cuts in the amount of increase. For example, education was scheduled to receive a 9 percent budget increase last year. As tax revenues started coming in, they adjusted the amount of increase to 7 percent. In governmental terms, this amounted to a budget cut even though education actually received 7 percent more than what it did the previous year.

Idaho is facing its current financial difficulties because the legislature and the governor irresponsibly over-estimated the projected growth for the next few years. The current revenue projections were developed during the economic boom a few years ago.

During this time the budget writers in the legislature irresponsibly predicted an annual growth of approximately 13 percent! What this means in practical terms is that government spending

increased substantially every year due to these inflationary predictions. Responsible budgeting would have forecasted growth around 5 percent - a more realistic rate of

passed by these moderates. What they forgot was that no economy can withstand a 13 percent growth rate for very long, and that eventually budget cuts would have to be made.

Of course, instead of coming clean with the public and admitting to faulty budget practices, the governor, who signed these budgets into law, proposes tax increases. He went on to blame the economy. What a farce. There is one way to get into debt, and that is to spend more than what you take in.

Families are forced to spend less when they spend themselves into debt. Shouldn't the same principle apply to government? Instead of admitting a spending problem, the governor tells us that the state faces an income problem! The best part about this budget crisis is his remedy.

As most people know by now, Kempthorne wants to raise the tax on cigarettes. This is sending a mixed message to Idaho youth. One moment they are encouraged never to

smoke, and current smokers are encouraged to quit. Now Kempthorne has basically said that we all need to start smoking so we can balance the budget. It is now our patriotic duty to buy cigarettes. The only way to protect education and health services is to start smoking so more revenue can pour into the state coffers.

Hopefully, the legislature will ignore Kempthorne's proposed tax increases. It would serve the Republican legislature and governor to stand up for Republican principle and use this golden opportunity to limit the size of government and reduce the tax burden on Idaho families. If times of surplus were the time to expand government, then times of deficit are the times to reduce it. Hopefully, Republicans will not squander this opportunity that they unknowingly created.

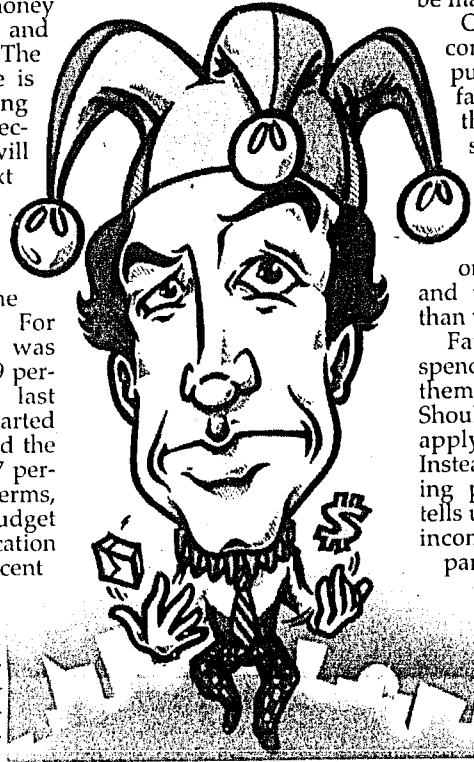


Illustration by David Hadden

growth.

The other contributor to this budget mess is tied to the surplus that existed three years ago. Sloppy management of the surplus is coming back to haunt Idaho Republicans.

Instead of lowering projected growth rates, minimizing government increases and passing more tax cuts to slow the growth of government, Idaho Republicans, led by spineless moderates, increased the budgets of virtually all government agencies.

The legislators thought they were making friends by throwing money at everybody. Unfortunately, they lacked the foresight to realize the peril in what they were doing. Remember, baseline budgeting takes the number from the previous year and then adds an increase. An increase in a previous year's budget is the new baseline for the current year.

Government spending ballooned under the budgets

Letters to the Editor

We encourage readers to respond in letters for publication. Letters must be 300 words or fewer. Please include your name, daytime telephone number, major field of study and year in school. Please direct all letters to editor@arbiteronline.com. Letters are subject to editing. The Arbiter cannot verify the accuracy of statements made in letters to the editor. Columnists' views do not necessarily represent those of the Arbiter editorial board and staff.

The Arbiter

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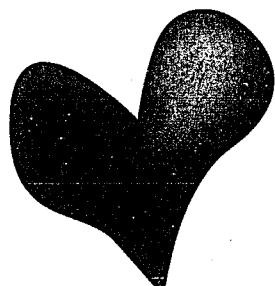
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The Arbiter

Women's basketball battle WAC leader

9th ranked Lady Techsters invade The Pavilion tonight

Tanya Dobson
The Arbiter

The reigning Western Athletic Conference leader Louisiana Tech will take on the Boise State women's basketball team tonight in The Pavilion.

La. Tech (14-2 overall, 7-0 WAC) is currently ranked 9th in the nation by the Associated Press media poll and 10th by the ESPN coaches' poll coming into tonight's game.

The Lady Techsters have been sitting comfortably at the top of the WAC since knocking down Tulsa one week ago 75-62 in Ruston, La.

This is only the second season La. Tech has been a member of the WAC, winning the title last season. Previously, La. Tech was a member of the Sun Belt Conference, where the Lady Techsters won consecutive titles the last nine years.

La. Tech currently owns the fifth best winning streak in the country and has not allowed an opponent to score more than 65 points in its last 13 games.

In late December, Tech became only the second women's basketball team in the country to record 800 victories when they defeated

New Mexico 67-54 at The Pit in Albuquerque, N.M.

The only other team to accomplish 800 wins in women's basketball is Tennessee. La. Tech has participated in all 21 NCAA tournaments; advanced to 13 Final Four's and won three NCAA National Championships.

Cheryl Ford leads the Lady Techsters and currently ranks fifth in the nation in rebounds per game. Recently, Ford had career games, grabbing 19 rebounds against Southern Methodist as well as setting a career high of 20 rebounds against Tulsa on Jan. 23. Ford, named the 2002 WAC Player of the Year, is the daughter of Utah Jazz forward Karl Malone.

Tonight marks the first meeting of the season for Boise State (4-13, 1-6) and La. Tech. The Broncos should be pleased that they have a home court advantage, as the Lady Techsters have not lost at home to an unranked team since 1992 when they were defeated by New Orleans.

The Thomas Assembly Center is considered to be one of the toughest places for any opponent in women's college basketball to win.

According to a recent survey, La. Tech is ranked No. 1 in the country with a 94.2 winning percentage at home.

Tonight's game starts at 7 p.m.



La. Tech's Cheryl Ford was named this week's WAC Player of the Week.

Photo courtesy of WAC

Randall named assistant coach for U.S. World Cup

Greg Randall, head wrestling coach for Boise State, has been named an assistant coach for the 2003 U.S. World Cup wrestling team.

Randall will be an assistant to wrestling legend Dan Gable of Iowa City, Iowa, who will serve as the head coach for this year's World Cup team.

Shawn Charles, an assistant coach at the University of Nebraska, will serve along with Randall as an assistant coach to Gable.

The national team will be in action at the Bank of America Centre in Boise when the city plays host to the 2003 World Cup of Freestyle Wrestling, April 5 and 6.

Countries scheduled to join the United States in this major event are Ukraine, Russia and Georgia. Iran and Cuba have also expressed interest but have not confirmed its plans.

The World Cup features dual meet competitions between six nations, with a team champion determined. In addition, individual medalists are awarded, based upon the results in each weight class.

Host United States has recently dominated the Freestyle World Cup winning 10 of the last 13-team titles, including the most recent World Cup held in Spokane, Wash., in 2002.

Randall is in his first year as the head coach for the Bronco wrestling team after serving as an assistant coach to Mike Young the previous 10 seasons. During Randall's time at Boise State, the Broncos have become a nationally ranked power on an annual basis.

In the last four years, Boise State has placed in the top 20 at the NCAA National Championships. The streak started in 1999 with a 10th place finish. Boise State placed 12th in 2000, 10th in 2001 and 19th in 2002. The Broncos have also won the Pac-10 Conference Championship in 2000 and 2002, while placing runner-up in 1999 and 2001.

This year's World Cup marks the 11th time Gable has been the team's head coach. He has also served as the head coach of the national freestyle squads for the 1980, 1984 and 2000 U.S. Olympic teams.

Gable is considered the most successful college coach of all time, setting numerous career records as the head coach at the University of Iowa. During his 21-year career guiding the Hawkeye program, Iowa won 15 NCAA National Team Championships.

Gable was a two-time NCAA National Champion at Iowa State. He was a 1972 Olympic gold medalist and the 1971 World champion.

-Bronco Sports Information

Schools go back in time to recognize women athletes

By Kathleen Nelson
St. Louis Post-Dispatch

This used to be their playground.

For the better part of a half-century, women at universities nationwide proudly wore their school colors as participants in basketball, volleyball, tennis and other sports. Many bought their

own uniforms, trained themselves, even paid their own expenses for road games. They did it for the love of the game and school and nothing else.

They're starting to get their due.

Illinois State University is joining the growing list of institutions to honor women who represented the school

as athletes. The school will award varsity letters to female athletes who participated from 1939 to 1989 in a celebration Feb. 8-9 that includes a dinner and recognition at Redbirds basketball games.

More than 200 women will attend the festivities; another 200 will receive their letters through the mail.

Illinois State is eager to recognize every woman who qualifies for a varsity letter.

Gina Lea Bianchi, Illinois State's athletics development coordinator, has worked for more than a year with a committee of volunteers devoted to making sure that the university pays long-overdue respect to women who played varsity athletics without recognition. The committee had to start from scratch, and portions of the planning were better suited to Nancy Drew than to Bianchi.

Like all institutions, the university kept few or no stats on its women's teams in the '30s, '40s, '50s and '60s and in some cases didn't even put together a roster.

The NCAA can offer little help. The NCAA, in fact, is loath to acknowledge that women participated in intercollegiate athletics before the early '80s, when it took over as governing body from the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women. So you can forget about organized records before then, much less before Title IX took effect a decade earlier.

Thus, the committee combed through musty old yearbooks for pictures and IDs and got a lot of information through old-fashioned word-of-mouth, which makes the fact that 200 will be in attendance all the more impressive.

"It's been really exciting," Bianchi said. "You find someone who qualifies for a letter, and they give us a couple of names of other women. Some of the athletes have been married more

than once, so tracking them down through name changes has been quite a journey."

The idea came from Michigan State, where Illinois State's assistant athletics director, Leanna Bordner, was honored for her participation in basketball, field hockey and softball in the '70s. Michigan State copied the idea from Central Michigan, which organized a similar event in 2000.

"It was a lovefest for about four hours," said Shelley Appelbaum, Michigan State's assistant athletics director and one of the driving forces behind the Spartans' ceremony last February.

"It validated their contribution to the women's athletic program."

The festivities in East Lansing included a women's basketball game between the Spartans and the University of Illinois. Illinois officials were so impressed with the program that they're planning a celebration of their own for late 2003. Illinois is trying to track down women who participated on the varsity level in the following sports before the 1974-75 season: basketball, cross-country, golf, gymnastics, soccer, softball, swimming and diving, tennis, track and field and volleyball.

Officials at both St. Louis University and Missouri said they were intrigued by the idea and recognized the difficulty of such an undertaking.

Some sports fans will say, "It's about time."

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Dr. Giselle Wyers in her room with a view.

Photo courtesy of Jeremy Branstad

Music professor wins competition, inspired to keep composing

By Justin Prescott
The Arbiter

Behind a slightly cluttered desk in Dr. Giselle Wyers' office, there is a bookshelf upon which sit several books, mostly about music. These books range in subjects from opera and choral music to female vocalists, German verbs and medieval music.

Standing next to a piano against the adjacent wall is Dr. Giselle Wyers, Director of Choral Activities at Boise State, playing scales as a female student follows along, singing the notes. They are testing the range of the student's voice.

Wyers decides that it is a tenor, which they will find out for sure at the next choir practice.

In the summer of 2002, Wyers decided, for no particular reason, to write a piece of choral music. She used an old sacred Catholic text entitled "Ave Maria" from the Catholic liturgy.

The text begins, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." Though Wyers is not Catholic, she chose this text for her music because of its beauty and its

timelessness.

On a whim, Wyers entered her composition in the Cambridge Madrigal Singers Annual Composition Competition.

Her confidence came after an audience response when the Boise State Meistersingers performed the piece in October of 2002 at the Idaho American Choral Directors Association retreat in Sun Valley.

"When the audience responded," Wyers said, "that's what really made me feel good. I thought, okay I'm connecting with people."

She couldn't believe it when she learned that her composition had been chosen as the winner.

"This award has really filled me with a sense of purpose and excitement. A lot of artists, they never get this kind of endorsement or credit from the outside world, and that's okay because art is for art's sake. But when you do, it makes you feel so good and it just gives you more energy to keep going," she said.

Wyers conducts the Meistersingers, University Singers, Chamber singers and Women's Chorale, and

teaches choral literature and private voice.

She has also served as interim conductor of the University of Arizona Symphonic Choir and has served as adjunct professor of music at Lewis and Clark College, Linfield College/Portland campus, and Mount Hood Community College.

She started community singing groups while attending UC Santa Cruz, where she got her bachelor's degree and Westminster Choir College, where she got her master's degree.

During her doctoral studies at the University of Arizona, she was too busy with her studies to start any groups, but she worked hard and the result was the list of positions mentioned above.

MUSIC has been a part of Wyers' life from the beginning, when she used to perform for her family.

She began playing with the Metropolitan Youth Symphony as a flutist when she was in middle school, and then, in high school she started singing. She had no plans to become a professional musician.

"I had this thought in my

head that that was what other people did, and I didn't think that I was destined for that," she said.

So, she went to college and began studying to be a marine biologist. Almost immediately she missed music.

Wyers began taking piano lessons and soon after joined a choir and, as she puts it, "before I knew it I was a music major."

Upon becoming a music major, Wyers discovered conducting. She would fill in as conductor when her teacher was unable to be there.

With much mentoring and feedback from her teacher, Wyers became increasingly confident with her conducting ability and soon it became what she describes as "the one thing I did that when I did it I lost complete track of time."

Wyers plans to continue composing and to see where it will take her. She seems excited by the prospect that there's more where that came from. The recognition she received recently was definitely motivation for her to wonder what the future of composing might hold.

Dashboard fans unplug

By Ryan Rafferty
The Observer
(U. Notre Dame)

What makes a good live album? A good setlist? Lots of witty banter between the band and the crowd? How about the quality of the recording?

Dashboard Confessional's latest release, *MTV Unplugged*, attempts to capture all the elements of a perfect live show, but they fall short.

Unplugged should be the perfect setting for an entirely acoustic band, and Dashboard does an excellent job of creating an intimate atmosphere.

Chris Carraba, originally a solo acoustic act, created Dashboard Confessional. With his relentlessly sad and impossibly frail acoustic songs, he ultimately created the emo-core genre.

This is the perfect band to take the stage on MTV's historic *Unplugged* series. Being an acoustic-based band, Dashboard's sound on *Unplugged* is no different than their studio sound. One major difference, however, is the presence of the audience.

On most live albums the crowd is mixed out of the recording and you can barely hear them, but on this album the crowd is all you can hear on several tracks.

Microphones were placed in the crowd in order to pick up the audience's voices as they sing along with Carraba on every single song.

On several quieter tracks, you can barely hear Carraba's voice and guitar over the audience's singing. This is very annoying and takes away from the music, which is wonderfully played.

The sing-along works only on one song, the first track "Swiss Army Romance." Carraba plays solo and stops singing dur-

ing the chorus at the end and lets the crowd take over.

This creates a very intimate setting, but the crowd should have been mixed out after that track. The crowd continues to drown out the music throughout the album, and the only time you cannot hear them is when the rest of the band comes out and plays with Carraba.

Beneath the crowd's vocals, the songs themselves are beautifully played. Standout tracks include the first track, "Swiss Army Romance," as well as "So Impossible," "For You to Notice" and "Again I Go Unnoticed," which are all played with a full band.

The rest of the songs seem as though they are probably played well, but the crowd is so loud you can barely hear anything that is being played.

When the acoustic guitars are intelligible, one of the best guitar players can be heard.

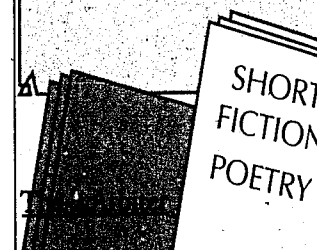
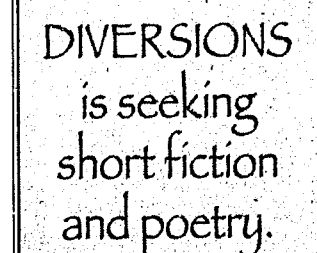
Carraba's sideman plays a haunting guitar with gentle riffs, making the emotional songs even better. He also doubles on the piano, adding a certain sound to Dashboard's songs, which cannot be heard on their studio albums.

Their most recognizable song "Screaming Infidelities" is much better than the original, adding a piano, but again the crowd covers it up almost completely with their singing.

This is an excellent live album, and the bonus DVD that comes with the album is excellent too.

The only flaw in this is the crowd's annoying sing-along. Because of this, Dashboard's songs lose much of their beauty.

Other than that, this is a very good album that will no doubt expand Dashboard Confessional's fan base.



Dwayne Blackaller is addicted to theater

By Tammy Sands
The Arbiter

Actor, teacher, student, writer, puppeteer ... Dwayne Blackaller is a man of many roles.

While working toward his bachelor's in English with an emphasis in writing at Boise State, Blackaller surrounds himself with theater, whether he's teaching a drama program for youth through Idaho Shakespeare Festival (ISF), doing elaborate puppet shows for children or acting in roles for ISF, BSU and Boise Contemporary Theatre (BCT).

Currently, Blackaller is playing a small role for BCT in Don DeLillo's *Valparaiso*, directed by Matthew Clark. In this role, he plays in an ensemble chorus as a freakish camera boom mike operator who provides lyrical background information with the rest of the chorus.

"The audience BCT tends to have are affluent people in their middle ages who go to theater a lot, but I think *Valparaiso* is begging for a young audience. It's ultimately a lot of tragedy, and I think it's a great opportunity for college age people to come see something very vital and interesting," Blackaller said.

"The language is very lyrical and surreal at times, but really engaging. It's essentially a man asking who he is in the mist of media, sex and the sense of humility."

Blackaller believes Clark has a great eye for good work, making him a great director to work with in this dark play.

"That's something that BCT does that nobody else does. It's a very rare thing to see a theater company devoted to doing very new, contemporary work. Matthew Clark reads a lot, and has inspired me to read a lot of new plays," Blackaller said.

"My favorite stuff is good, strong contemporary work that I think can give us a reason to go see theater and not hang all of our hopes on movies. I think as long as your not competing on the same terms as film, theater can be far more compelling."

In addition, Blackaller continues to teach a drama



Photo courtesy of BSU news services

Dwayne Blackaller in last year's "Blue Room."

program, which he started teaching in 1992 when it was called Idaho Theatre for Youth and was later bought out by Idaho Shakespeare Festival. The age groups consist of six year olds to high school-age students.

"I love the energy of the young kids, but I love the attention span of the older kids," Blackaller said.

Blackaller also runs a puppet business with his close friend and fellow actor, Geoffrey Bennett, known as Puppet in the Trunk.

Bennett and Blackaller moved to Las Vegas for a few years where they learned puppetry along with stage combat techniques. When they returned to Boise, they saw a market for puppetry work in Boise.

They perform primarily for children, but any kind of public event can become a festive one with their performance.

Blackaller is a senior at Boise State this semester, and he plans to pursue graduate school to achieve his M.F.A. in performance.

"I always told myself I

would never be an actor because I didn't like the lifestyle too much. Actors seemed sort of lonely and chemically dependent and all those things. I think the biggest ingredient of all of this is luck," he said.

Blackaller said the most important thing he can say to people is to realize there is a vital, professional theater life in Boise.

"I think they should really take advantage of it. You'll be able to see stuff here that people don't get to see outside of New York City. I mean it really is true. *Valparaiso* is a brand new play. I would really encourage people to get out there, and start seeing really good theater," he said.

Valparaiso opens on Feb. 1, but preview nights are Jan. 30 and 31.

Ticket prices are half price on preview nights, which is a little bit more than the price of a movie but well worth it.

For more information on Puppet in the Trunk, call 424-0319.



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RainyDawg launches after long radio silence

By Stuart Eskenazi
The Seattle Times

SEATTLE—With the song "Norwegian Wood" by The Beatles, RainyDawg Radio officially debuted on the Internet last week, giving University of Washington students what they have not had for more than 20 years—a radio station they can call their own.

After five years of planning, the station at long last launched its 24-hour Webcasting schedule, which features student disc jockeys broadcasting live from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and pre-programmed music overnight.

Streaming on www.rainy-dawg.com actually began sporadically two weeks ago, as student DJs familiarized themselves with new, state-of-the-art equipment.

The station is the product of UW student investment, decades after former campus-based radio stations KUOW and KEXP matured from student training grounds into professionally run community assets.

RainyDawg is a student organization, operating under the Associated Students of University of Washington (ASUW).

"We were the only Pac-10 school to not have a student radio station," said Scott Somers, 20, RainyDawg's general manager.

Students had pent-up interest. In November, RainyDawg put a call out on

campus for DJs and received 250 applications. About 120 applicants were interviewed to fill about 30-plus slots. An additional 10 were reserved for students already active in RainyDawg, Somers said.

RainyDawg's DJs are volunteers and must be students or have graduated within the past year. The UW School of Communications, once affiliated with KUOW and KCMU, stopped offering a broadcast-journalism curriculum in 1996.

"I don't think DJ'ing is in the cards for me as a career," said Erin Whitcomb, 22, a senior double majoring in communication and political science who hosts a local music show on RainyDawg.

"It's just cool to bring the local music scene to my campus. College radio has always been the cutting edge. There is a need for it and I hope that long after I graduate, RainyDawg keeps going."

While RainyDawg gives students a more resonant voice on campus, that expression for now will mostly be through music. The station's format is light on talk and heavy on modern music, much of it rock 'n' roll.

The three top station managers are students, and each is paid. Somers has worked in radio for four years, including at a Top-40 station in Billings, Mont.

The genesis for the station was a project five years ago



RainyDawg general manager Scott Somers, at left, and DJ, Adam Michelman work at the basement station in the Husky Union Building at the University of Washington campus

Photo by Mark Harrison
Seattle Times

by a student in a speech communication class. Somers said the project sparked interest among students, who formed a task force to examine the prospect.

With no FM radio frequencies available in Seattle, the focus was on Internet radio. Students opted to pay for and run the station through ASUW.

"That way, if the station became successful, it would never be taken away from

students like KUOW and KCMU were," Somers said.

To buy equipment, the station obtained \$87,000 through a technology fund that students pay into as part of tuition and fees. Student activity fees pay for operations, including salaries and station licensing fees. Somers said the station's annual budget is \$30,000.

During its test run two weeks ago, the number of daily listeners peaked at

about 800, he said.

"Students' parents living in New York can listen and alumni all over the world can listen and find out what's going on at the U-Dub," Somers said. "But we are focusing on students."

The station also is supporting local bands that include UW students as members by playing their music and inviting them for live studio performances.

RainyDawg still has hur-

dles to clear. The future of Internet radio is hazy, although Webcasters benefited from a federal decision last summer that limited the amount of royalties stations must pay.

And RainyDawg, which must be self-sustaining within three years, must figure out a way to raise revenue while finessing UW rules about commercial influences.

Hoover goes from 'Road Rules' to reporter

By Richard Huff
New York Daily News

KIT Hoover, the sassy Southern spark plug from MTV's first season of Road Rules, has survived the reality craze - and lived to report on it.

Hoover is now a correspondent for Fox's newsmagazine The Pulse.

And her first piece for the program - returning to Fox on Thursday at 9 p.m. EST - is about the parents of Evan

Marriott, a.k.a. "Joe Millionaire."

"MTV was pretty ingenious to stumble on this early on," said Hoover, one of the first to emerge from the reality genre. "We all have that voyeuristic side of us who wants to watch those real people on TV."

Hoover appeared on Road Rules eight years ago. At the time, the show was hot, following the success of MTV's The Real World, but the nationwide fascination with

the genre was no where near as high as it is today.

Still, Hoover believed she would be able to parlay her exposure into another TV gig. A few on-air spots for MTV were followed by a full-time job on the syndicated newsmagazine American Journal.

"I thought it was the greatest thing ever," she said of the AJ experience.

AJ led to on-air assignments for Showtime; then she joined the Fox news-

magazine Fox Files. Before Sept. 11, she did entertainment reports for the Fox News Channel.

"She's a little bundle of energy," said Bill Shine, executive producer of The Pulse. "She just lights up the screen. She's a powerhouse."

Though she majored in journalism at the University of North Carolina, Hoover's background is more entertainment-driven than hard news.

"Look, we're not asking

her to go over to the Middle East and report on a war," Shine said. "We ask her to interview Joe Millionaire."

Besides speaking with Marriott's family, Hoover is working on a piece about American Idol - and one on online dating.

Come Thursday, viewers will see one of the early reality stars interviewing one of the biggest-reality stars.

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'Biker Boyz' shows realistic heart

By John Monaghan
Knight Ridder Newspapers

DETROIT — Star Derek Luke had never even sat on a motorcycle before he started filming *Biker Boyz*, a new action drama about the world of motorcycle racing.

And while he jokes that he now rides better than his co-stars, including Kid Rock, he developed a genuine respect for the American biker subculture that he says is, rarely shown on film.

"It [the movie] exposes the way people live, what drives them, the adrenaline," Luke said.

"There will be a different awareness that there's a humanity, a fraternity, a community to these people brought together by a love of bikes."

Last week's preview brought members of that community out to Detroit's Phoenix Theatres, as much to see the bikes in the movie and the display bikes in the lobby as to see stars Luke, Brendan Fehr and Rick Gonzalez.

Colin Filthaut, 28, an engineer at Chrysler, attended the screening with friend and co-worker, Senthil Rajan, 27. Both own Yamaha R1s simi-

lar to the bikes used in the film.

"You mention to people that you ride a bike, and they say, 'You're clean-cut. You dress nice. What are you doing on a motorcycle?' They immediately assume that

their parts as the charter members of a Southern California club.

The action centers on Kid (Luke), who challenges Smoke (Laurence Fishburne), the unbeaten King of Cali, in a motorcycle drag race.



you're doing wheelies and causing trouble," Filthaut said.

Biker Boyz co-star Fehr agrees. "You see six, seven, 10 bikes outside a restaurant and you think, 'I don't want to go in there; it's dangerous.' But think about it - you can only fit so many guys on a bike. You want six guys to go hang out, you're going to need at least five bikes."

Luke, Fehr and Gonzalez spent a weekend at motorcycle boot camp to prepare for

The first feature from director Reggie Rock Bythewood, the movie has been called *The Fast and the Furious* with motorcycles, but the actors think it has heart along with the high-octane thrills.

"Take away the bikes and you still have a story," said Luke, who was last year's biggest Hollywood Cinderella story when he landed the starring role in *Antwone Fisher*. Denzel Washington's directorial

debut.

Standing in the lobby at the Phoenix, he smiled as patrons filing out of an *Antwone Fisher* matinee did "Is that really him?" double takes.

Not everyone is excited to see *Biker Boyz* come to town, though. Ron Sangster, president of the Michigan Motorcycle Dealers Association and owner of Honda-Suzuki of Warren, says any movie about street racing is bad for the motorcycle industry.

"Even if there is some good surrounding it, like the family relationships, it will only work for me if it says to make illegal racing stop," he said.

But Luke prefers to view the movie as a chance to dispel myths.

"If anything, it will make people more conscious," he said.

"Biker gangs in real life aren't about color, race or creed. It's about getting together for the love of the bike, the thrill of the ride. It's about camaraderie, getting together for a little slice of heaven on earth."

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Horoscopes

By Linda C. Black
Tribune Media Services

Today's Birthday (Jan. 30). Don't spend the entire year hanging out with your friends. You're involved in fascinating projects, and you need a little private time. Schedule at least one retreat with an enlightened advisor. Talking about an old wound helps it heal, and that allows you to help others.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19)
- Today is a 7 - Although you're very lucky and powerful, and have the support of friends and family, be careful. If you add discipline, you've got it made.

Taurus (April 20-May 20)
- Today is a 6 - You may feel slightly inhibited by a person with distinctly different tastes. Do what's required to pay the bills, and chuckle about it in private with a true friend.

Gemini (May 21-June 21)
- Today is a 7 - Be practical. Figure out what you can afford to spend and how to get there even cheaper. This coming weekend will be awesome for romance and travel. Find a way to afford it.

Cancer (June 22-July 22)
- Today is a 7 - Don't be shy about asking questions, but don't ask questions in public. Nobody needs to know where you get your information. Just make sure you get it.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22)
- Today is a 7 - Technology can help you deal with a bottleneck. Don't push harder. Find a way around it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
- Today is a 7 - You're closer than ever to having a dream come true at work. Loved ones offer encouragement. You can do the rest.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
- Today is a 7 - Follow through on promises recently made. Do it not

just for the person you love, but also for yourself. You'll be much more optimistic once you've done what you said you'd do.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
- Today is a 6 - Don't buy anything but the essentials. Something you've long wanted for your home falls into that category. Actually, it could be a down payment that you're saving for.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
- Today is a 7 - Give difficult material your full

attention. A light once-over isn't enough. Study.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
- Today is a 7 - Take care of paperwork in order to make your future more secure. Don't wait around for somebody else to do it. That's not happening.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
- Today is a 7 - You can take ancient information and use it to build things nobody else can. That's just one of your talents. But first, you have to do the homework.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)
- Today is a 7 - Something you've long dreamed about is becoming a part of you. It's a goal accomplished honorably. Pat yourself on the back.

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DILBERT

YOUR VISIBILITY HAS BEEN EXCELLENT LATELY. WHAT'S YOUR SECRET?

I CREATED A MIND-LESS REPLICA TO ATTEND MEETINGS. HE HAS NO PERSONALITY WHATSOEVER.

WOW! YOU LOOK TOTALLY REAL.

HEE HEE! BURN, DUDE.

WOULD IT BE OKAY IF I ASKED YOUR MINDLESS REPLICA FOR A DATE?

I'M FULL OF UNINTERESTING STORIES AND I NEED A GUY WHO'S A GOOD LISTENER.

NOW I'LL DESCRIBE THE CLOTHING OF EACH PERSON AT THE CAT SHOW.

THANK!

WE SAVED MONEY BY HIRING A GUY WHO'S HAD MANY PERSONAL PROBLEMS.

BUT WE'RE SURE HE WAS JUST UNLUCKY. NO ONE WOULD INVITE THAT MANY PROBLEMS INTO HIS LIFE.

YES OF COURSE YOUR EX-BOYFRIEND CAN STAY WITH US UNTIL THE CHOPPERS LEAVE AND HE SOBERS UP.

Crossword

ACROSS

- Scrabble piece
- Window cover
- Autobahn auto
- Not a dupe
- Playful aquatic mammal
- Stout's Wolfe
- Poor choice of words?
- Old sailor
- Tangle up
- Posted statements
- Positive hand signals
- Rich deposit
- Period in a process
- Hole in one
- Country on the Gulf of Aden
- Crag
- Flounders
- Neighbor of Miss.
- Joan of
- Be malevolent
- Relatives
- College cheer
- Explore caves
- So forth
- Horned charger
- Pull from a jug
- Concur
- Ditty
- Med. picture
- Solemnly promised
- Fellow traveler
- Focal points
- Flexible elevator?
- Chooses
- Goddess of peace
- k.d.
- Adam or Mae
- Gives off
- 911 respondents

DOWN

- Option for Hamlet
- Shah's realm
- Covers
- Christmas quaff
- Files high
- Web page file letters
- \$ dispenser
- Rusk or Martin
- Actor Flynn
- Kick (football game)
- Mediator
- Stanley Gardner
- Subdivision divisions
- Gardening tools
- Santa's sackful
- Belle or Bart
- Synagogue scroll
- Saarin and Wright
- Forest quaker
- Mexican dish
- Gobble
- Select few
- Sportscaster Jim
- Small viper
- Strong desire
- Tune
- Destiny
- Naturalist
- Bellyband
- Uncanny
- Plants with intelligence?
- John Deere product
- Easy gait
- Campus
- quartars
- Canadian coin
- Elliot's Bede
- Pockmark
- Units of work
- Louvre Pyramid designer